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Montana State University Law School want better faculty salaries, additions to library staff, and new building

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Better faculty salaries, additions to the library staff, and a new building are listed as pressing needs of the Montana State University Law School in the dean's annual report to the president of the University.

Lack of an adequate physical plant is a threat to the Law School's high accreditation standing, according to Dean Robert E. Sullivan's report, published in the August issue of the MSU Law School News.

The report points out that the adviser to the American Bar Association Section of Legal Education has called the Law School's physical facilities "woefully inadequate" and "among the worst of state-supported law schools throughout the nation."

In January 1959, the Law School Board of Visitors, comprised of Montana lawyers, adopted a resolution urging the University administration to take steps toward a solution. Since then, a committee made up of the law faculty and two members of the campus planning and development committee has made tentative recommendations to the MSU administration on the selection of a site for a new building.

"It is necessary that further attention be given to the provision of new facilities if we are to maintain accreditation and keep an outstanding student body and dedicated faculty," the dean states.

The report gives a favorable account of progress during the year in many aspects of the school's operation but stresses the need for improvement in some areas. The faculty made an impressive record in scholarly research and publication and in cooperation with the legal profession in Montana, according to the report.

(more)

It goes on to say, however, that to hold faculty members of this caliber, it will be necessary to raise salaries. Average salaries paid to the law faculty in 1958-59 were somewhat below the median for all accredited law schools and well below those paid by comparable law schools in the Northwest.

In a section on the law library, the report says a statewide reference and loan program to assist practicing attorneys is a "real necessity," but this is not possible with present staff and resources.

The dean reports an enrollment increase of a little more than 18 per cent during the year and lists student achievements, including the moot court team's prize for the best brief in the regional moot court competition. He cites the need for more scholarships and other financial help for worthy students.

Calling the next five years "crucial," the report says the school's current needs must be met if it is to withstand pressures to relax admission and academic standards. These pressures are building up as a result of a growing shortage of lawyers, the report says.

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